DUO BRAND.

御神刀シリーズ

絶対命令

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THE WISE AND TALENTED SHINTO PRIEST KIKYOU FELL IN LOVE WITH THE SPIRIT INSIDE THE SWORD OF HIS OWN CREATION KAZUTO. HOWEVER, THAT WAS A FORBIDDEN LOVE. "ABSOLUTE COMMAND" BECAME TO CORRUPT YOU... MIKOTO. MIKOTO THE THIRD SWORD'S SPIRIT WHO DEFEATS EVIL MEETS THE SPIRIT OF THE FOURTH SWORD SHOU AND DISCOVERS LOVE. HOWEVER, BY THE HANDS OF AN ASSASSIN SET FORTH BY HIS ENEMIES SHOU IS... "IS THIS LOVE A SIN?" TWO EPIC LOVE STORIES CONNECTED BY THE GOSHINTOU!

DUO BRAND.

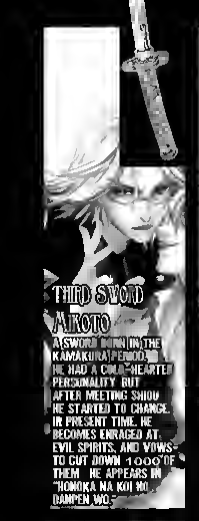
COMMENT

WE ARE 2 MANGA ARTISTS WORKING AS ONE. WE CREATE MANGA LITTLE BY LITTLE EVERYDAY. THIS TIME IN BOTH KAZUTO AND MIKOTO'S STORIES IT'S ABOUT THE SPIRITS OF THE GOSHINTOU WHO FALL IN LOVE. THERE ARE BATTLES AND PLOT TWISTS... BUT THERE'S ALSO LOVE! WE HOPE THAT YOU ENJOY IT.

URL http://www.duobrand.jp

Design SUEZAWA DESIGN OFFICE

ABSOLUTE
BRAND COMMAND
20 7
DUO BRAND
絶対命令



THIRD SWORD MIKOTO

A SWORD BORN IN THE KAMAKURA PERIOD. HE HAD A COLD-HEARTED PERSONALITY BUT AFTER MEETING SHIOU HE STARTED TO CHANGE. IN PRESENT TIME, HE BECOMES ENRAGED AT EVIL SPIRITS AND VOWS TO CUT DOWN 1,000 OF THEM. HE APPEARS IN "HONOKA NA KOI NO DAMPEN WO."

SECOND SWORD NINOMIYA

A SWORD BORN AT THE END OF THE HEIAN PERIOD. AS THE LEAD SWORD AFTER THE DISAPPEARANCE OF KAZUTO, HE POSSESSES OVERWHELMING POWER. HE HAS FEELINGS FOR NANAKI BUT HAS GREAT UNCERTAINTY IN WHERE HE STANDS IN THE RELATIONSHIP. HE APPEARS IN "HONOKA NA KOI NO DAMPEN WO."

FIRST SWORD KAZUTO

A SWORD BORN IN THE HEIAN PERIOD. HE IS THE FIRST GOSHINTOU SWORD BUT BECAUSE OF A FATEFUL DECISION, HIS PATH IS UNUSUAL. HE HAS ABSOLUTE LOYALTY TO KIKYOU IN THE PRESENT DAY. HIS WHEREABOUTS ARE UNKNOWN.

TORANOSUKE SHENJIN

TORANOSUKE IS A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT WHO IS HUNTING SHENJIN AND EVIL SPIRITS. THEY APPEAR IN "HONOKA NA KOI NO DAMPEN WO."

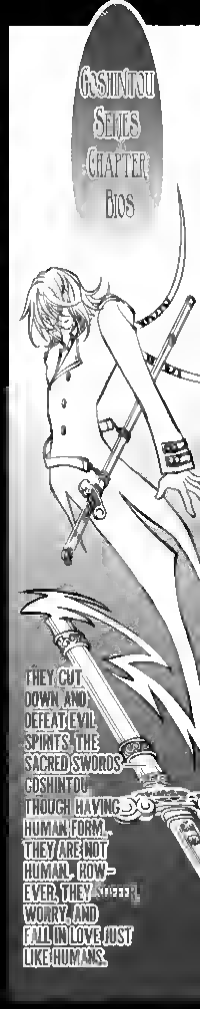
YUINAGI

A PRESENT DAY HEAD SHINTO PRIEST RESIDING IN A HIGH SHINTO SHRINE OF THE GOSHINTOU. HE USES NINOMIYA, MIKOTO, ITSUMO MIKOSHI, AND NANAKI. HE PARTICULARLY FAVORS HIS OWN CREATION, NANAKI. HE LOVES TO MAKE MONEY.

KIKYOU

A HEAD SHINTO PRIEST WHO CRAFTED A GOSHINTOU. HE RESIDES AT THE HIGH SHINTO SHRINE IN THE HEIAN PERIOD. HE FALLS INTO A FORBIDDEN LOVE WITH KAZUTO WHO ISN'T HUMAN.

GOSHINTOU SERIES CHARACTER BIOS



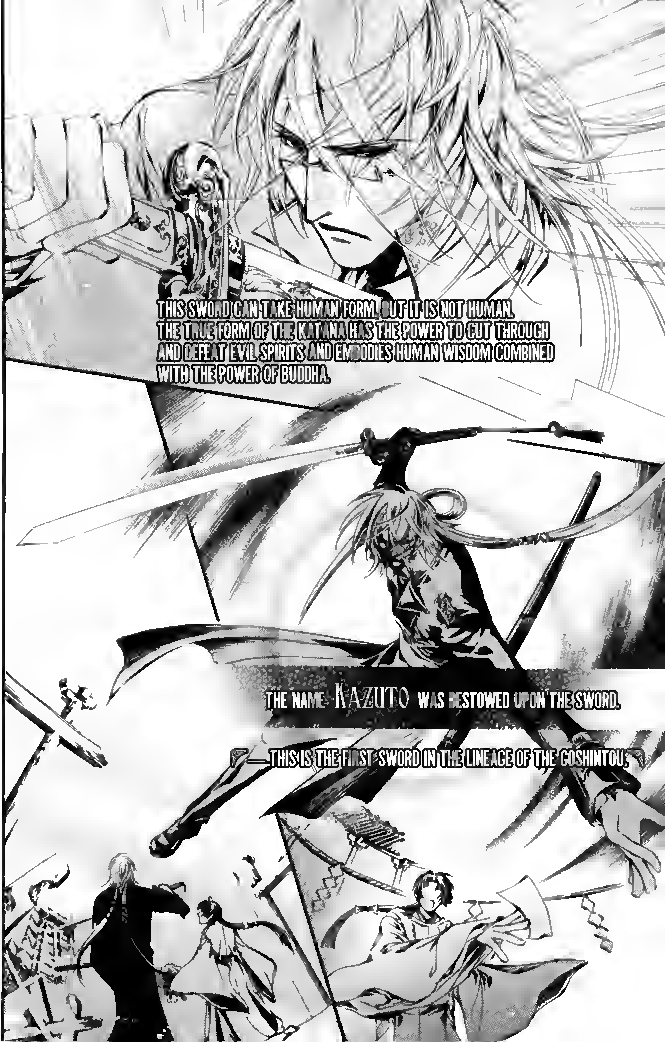
THEY CUT DOWN AND DEFEAT EVIL SPIRITS. THE SACRED SWORDS GOSHINTOU. THOUGH HAVING HUMAN FORM, THEY ARE NOT HUMAN. HOWEVER, THEY "FEEL", WORRY, AND FALL IN LOVE JUST LIKE HUMANS.

SEVENTH SWORD
NANAKI
A NEW SWORD BORN IN THE HEISEI PERIOD. HE IS ATTRACTED TO AND DRAWN TOWARDS MIKOMIYA BUT HE IS STUBBORN AND CAN'T BE HONEST WITH HIMSELF. HE APPEARS IN "KOMORA NA KOI NO DANPEN NO".
SIXTH SWORD
ROKUSHI
A SWORD BORN IN THE BAKUMATSU PERIOD. HE HAS A KIND AND PEACEFUL PERSONALITY DESPITE BEING A SWORD OF LARGE STATURE. HE ALSO ENJOYS FLOWERS.
FIFTH SWORD
ITSUKI
DESPITE BEING A SWORD BORN IN THE EDO PERIOD, HE HAS COMPLETELY ADAPTED TO THE PRESENT-DAY INTERNET SOCIETY. HE HAS EXPERIENCED SORROWFUL LOVE. OF ALL THE GOSHINTOU, HE POSSESSES THE FASTEST SPEED.
FOURTH SWORD
SHIOU
A SWORD BORN IN THE KAMAKURA PERIOD. HAVING BEEN CAUGHT IN THE CONFLICT BETWEEN TWO SUCCESSORS TO THE HIGH SHINTO SHRINE, HE FORMS AN INSEPARABLE BOND WITH MIKOTO. IN THE PRESENT-DAY, HIS WHEREABOUTS ARE UNKNOWN.

STORIES THIS TIME
MIKOTO × SHIOU {BRAND}
KIKYOU × KAZUTO {SACRIFICE COMMAND}

Heian Period—
Evil mountain and river spirits are running rampant, dominating the world and disrupting the very fabric of human existence.
These spirits have no corporeal body. They are dark, sinister, demonic and cannot be defeated by human hands.
Absolute Command

Overwhelmed with the world's sorrow, the shrine's head Shinto priest, Kikyou, forged a single sword using cold hardened Tamahagane to defend the Emperor's capital.


THIS SWORD CAN TAKE HUMAN FORM, BUT IT IS NOT HUMAN.
THE TRUE FORM OF THE KATANA HAS THE POWER TO CUT THROUGH AND DEFEAT EVIL SPIRITS AND EMBODIES HUMAN WISDOM COMBINED WITH THE POWER OF BUDDHA.
THE NAME KAZUTO WAS BESTOWED UPON THE SWORD.
—THIS IS THE FIRST SWORD IN THE LINEAGE OF THE GOSHINTOU.

ABSOLUTE

TODAY'S WORK TOOK A LONG TIME
WE GOT COVERED IN DUST
I DIDN'T THINK THE SANCTUARY WOULD COLLAPSE SO EASILY
THAT'S WHY I WARNED YOU, KIKYOU-SAMA
THE COLUMNS HAD BEEN ROTTED AWAY BY THE EVIL SPIRITS
BUT YOU WERE JUST SO COOL
I JUST COULDN'T KEEP MY EYES OFF OF YOU
glance

KIKYOU-SAMA?
blush
OH N-NOTHING
EH?
IT'S JUST A CRACK, KIKYOU-SAMA. IT WILL HAVE TO BE POLISHED LATER.
PLEASE DON'T WORRY. THIS WON'T AFFECT MY PERFORMANCE IN THE NEXT ASSIGNMENT
OH YEAH, LET ME SEE YOUR WOUND KAZUTO. DIDN'T IT HURT?
I'LL HEAL IT RIGHT NOW
heal
WELL DANGER COMES WITH EVERY BATTLE
THERE'S NO WAY IT DOESN'T HURT.
WHAT A HORRIBLE WOUND

I HOPE YOU DON'T THINK IT'S BECAUSE OF MY LACK OF STRENGTH.
EH? OF COURSE I WOULDN'T THINK SOMETHING LIKE THAT
KAZUTO IS REALLY STRONG!
YOU VANQUISHED ALL THE EVIL SPIRITS SO GRACEFULLY TODAY
Welcome home, Kikyou-sama.
Would you like me to wash your feet?
KAZUTO YOU'RE PROBABLY THE MIRACLE GRANTED TO ME BY GOD
YOU ARE MY CREATOR KIKYOU-SAMA
NOBODY ELSE
MM... YOU'RE RIGHT THANK YOU KAZUTO

WILL YOU KEEP WORKING WITH ME AND CONTINUE TO DO YOUR BEST?
CER-TAINLY
AS LONG AS THAT IS YOUR COMMAND
THANK YOU!
SO TODAY'S BUSINESS IS NOW CONCLUDED ? THEN I'LL TAKE MY LEAVE
AH!
YOU MUST BE TIRED PLEASE TAKE YOUR TIME AND REST KIKYOU-SAMA
WELL THEN—
Yoshiki
fade

tap
YOU'RE SO COLD
KAZUTO
glow
COLD..?

WHAT ARE YOU— HOPING FOR...?
FROM SOMEONE WHO IS JUST A THING—
twitch
YOU'RE NOT A THING, KAZUTO—
KIKYOU-SAMA.

.....
IS THERE A TOOL THAT GOES AGAINST ITS CREATOR?
YOU PROVIDE EVERYTHING FOR ME JUST AS IF YOU WERE A HUMAN BEING
PLEASE DON'T DENY THAT.
Grasp
BECAUSE... YOU'RE HERE TALKING TO ME
YOU'RE LOOKING AT ME RIGHT NOW
YOU'RE NOT A TOOL
AND YOU ARE SO WARM...
...LIKE THIS

IT TOOK LONGER TO VANQUISH THE EVIL SPIRITS TODAY.
YOU'RE PROBABLY JUST MENTALLY EXHAUSTED AND FATIGUED
KIKYOU-SAMA, YOU RE PROBABLY TIRED
KIKYOU-SAMA?
KAZUTO.
CAN I STAY LIKE THIS UNTIL I FALL ASLEEP?
YES.

CHATTER
CHATTER
I'VE ALREADY HEARD OF YOUR DEEDS FROM LAST NIGHT KIKYOU
EXCE-LLENT WORK
YES HOW-EVER,
PART OF THE TREASURES STORED IN THE SANCTUARY HAVE BEEN LOST I DON'T HAVE THE WORDS TO EXPRESS HOW SORRY I AM.
I WAS THE ONE WHO ORDERED THE EVIL SPIRITS VANQUISHED WITHOUT GIVING YOU DETAILS DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT
I APPRECIATE YOUR GEN-EROSITY.
EMPEROR

SO KIKYOU... I HAVE ONE LITTLE REQUEST.
YES WHAT, EVER YOU WISH
BUT THESE EVIL SPIRITS ARE TROUBLE-SOME, AREN'T THEY?
NORMAL HUMANS HAVE NO WAY TO DEFEND AGAINST THEM OR EVEN DETECT THEM.
GIVE THAT SWORD TO ME
EH?
THERE'S NO GUARANTEE THAT YOU WON'T BE FACED WITH DANGER.
I'D LIKE TO TAKE THAT GOSHINTOU AS MY CASTLE'S PROTECTION SWORD
!!

B-BUT I NEED KAZUTO AND—
YES I KNOW,
BUT ISN'T THAT SOMETHING THAT WAS FORGED OUT OF TAMAHAGANE?
YOU CAN JUST CREATE A NEW GOSHINTOU
BUT THAT'S...
I'M VERY INTERESTED IN THE MAKE OF THAT SWORD

I'D LIKE THAT MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE
POLISH THE SWORD REPAIR ANY DEFECTS AND DELIVER IT TO ME
UNDER-STOOD KIKYOU?

...I UNDERSTAND...
...YOUR COMMAND.
clench
rustle
flicker

KIKYOU-SAMA,
THERE'S NOTHING FOR YOU TO WORRY ABOUT
IF I GO TO THE EMPEROR'S SIDE, EVERYTHING WILL BE ALL RIGHT.
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
THE EMPEROR. I CAN'T BELIEVE HE WOULD SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT
THERE'S STILL MORE TAMAHAGANE THAT CAN BE USED YOU CAN CREATE AS MANY GOSHINTOU AS YOU WISH
YOU WON'T BE WITHOUT A SWORD
IT CAN'T BE ANYONE ELSE

IT JUST HAS TO BE KAZUTO
drop
drop
I DON'T WANT TO BE SEPARATED FROM YOU
touch
I'D LIKE TO SAY WHAT YOU WANT TO HEAR... BUT—

YOU SHOULDN'T SAY THINGS LIKE THAT.
IF YOU BECOME ATTACHED TO ME AND DON'T LET GO
THEN YOUR LIFE WILL BE IN DANGER

IF YOU GO AGAINST THE EMPEROR'S ORDER—IT'S THE DEATH PENALTY

BUT,
KAZUTO, I
I LOVE YOU
KIKYOU-SAMA
SORRY
I'M REALLY SORRY FOR SAYING SOMETHING THAT'LL MAKE YOU WORRY

I
HOW CAN I WIN AGAINST YOUR FEELINGS—?
HOLD ME...
Hold me

SINCE WE'RE FOLLOWING THE EMPEROR'S ORDER
LEAVE YOUR MARK ON ME.
TO PROVE THAT YOU WERE HERE
Slide
AS YOU WISH.

hmm
hmm
hmm
hmm
YOU CAN RELAX, KIKYOU-SAMA
m..
hmm
I DON'T WANT TO PUT TOO MUCH STRAIN ON YOU...

Ah!
grab
KAZUTO...
from
from
KAZUTO...

I'M SORRY KAZUTO
I'M SUCH A COWARD AND I ALWAYS ASK SO MUCH OF YOU
EVEN THOUGH I CAN'T DO ANYTHING FOR YOU

I REALLY LOVE YOU— KAZUTO
I'VE WAITED A LONG TIME FOR THIS DAY.
GOSHINTOU! COME TO MY SIDE!
—KAZUTO
IT'S THE EMPEROR'S ORDER—GO TO HIS HIGHNESS
YES

GOSHINTOU, WHAT A MYSTERIOUS BEING YOU ARE!
EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE NOT HUMAN, YOU CAN TAKE HUMAN FORM
EXCELLENT

WHEN YOU DEFEATED THE EVIL SPIRITS BEFORE WE LOST A LOT OF THE TREASURES INSIDE
LET'S GATHER THE NOBLES AND HAVE A BANQUET TO GAZE UPON ITS BEAUTY

Kuuuu
EM-PEROR,
ARE YOU PLANNING TO JUST PUT ME ON DISPLAY?
OF COURSE!
I WOULD NEVER PUT SOMETHING SO BEAUTIFUL IN HARM'S WAY AND LET IT GET ALL SCRATCHED UP

FLICK
I'M NOT GOING TO SADDEN MY MASTER IF THERE ISN'T EVEN A REASON FOR ME TO BE HERE.
—I SEE
THEN—
startle
WHOOSH
I AM NOT HUMAN. I WAS CREATED BY KIKYOU-SAMA
THERE IS NO REASON FOR ME TO OBEY HUMAN LAWS
WHA-!?

MY SOLE EXISTENCE IS TO KILL EVIL SPIRITS
FAREWELL, EMPEROR!
WHA...!?
H-? HOW DARE YOU!?
GUARDS! DON'T LET HIM ESCAPE!
SUR-ROUND AND CAPTURE HIM!
HE'S TRYING TO ESCAPE!
Hide

MY SWORD WILL CUT NOT ONLY EVIL SPIRITS, BUT ALSO FLESH.
SOLDIERS OF THE IMPERIAL GUARD! DON'T TRY TO STOP ME!
LEAP
!!
whoosh
KAZUTO...

KIKYOU-SAMA.
I MUST APOLOGIZE TO YOU.
I HAVE MADE YOUR PLACE IN THE WORLD SO MUCH HARDER
KAZUTO...
thump
SINCE I HAVE GONE AGAINST THE ORDER OF THE EMPEROR'S COURT PEOPLE WILL COME AFTER US NO MATTER WHERE WE GO
EVEN THOUGH IT'S A CRIME I COMMITTED YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WILL BE IN DANGER.
hold
I DON'T CARE IF I'M IN DANGER OR CHASED

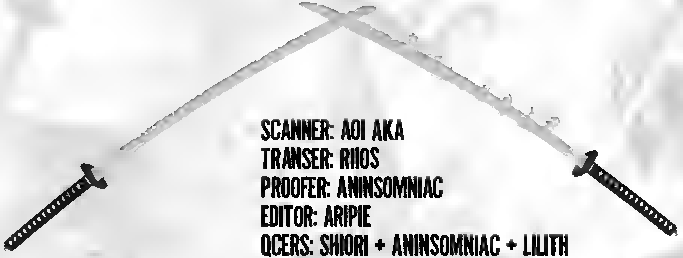
KIKYOU-SAMA...
YOU'VE GRANTED MY WISHES
NOTHING COULD MAKE ME HAPPIER
THANK YOU— KAZUTO

STAY BY MY SIDE FOREVER
YES.
I WILL NEVER FADE AWAY
KIKYOU-SAMA
I WILL FOLLOW YOUR WISHES FOREVER.
END

NAKAMA + DANGEROUS PLEASURE present

ZETTAI MEIREI

ABSOLUTE COMMAND



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http://www.nakamanga.com

http://dpscanlations.deathsvertigo.com/

THE EMPEROR'S HISTORY LESSON

A GOSHINTOU IS A TYPE OF FICTIONAL SACRED SWORD CREATED BY A SHINTO PRIEST INFUSED WITH ITS OWN SPIRIT AND THE POWERS OF THE SHINTO GODS.

A KATANA IS A TYPE OF JAPANESE SWORD WITH A DISTINCTIVE CURVED SINGLE-EDGED BLADE. KAZUTO IS THE ONLY SWORD THAT DOES NOT CARRY ONE AS IT WAS DEVELOPED AFTER HE WAS CREATED.

TAMAHAGANE IS A HIGH CARBON CONTENT STEEL AFTER SMELTING IRON SAND OR BLACK SAND IN A SHINTO RITUALISTIC FASHION.

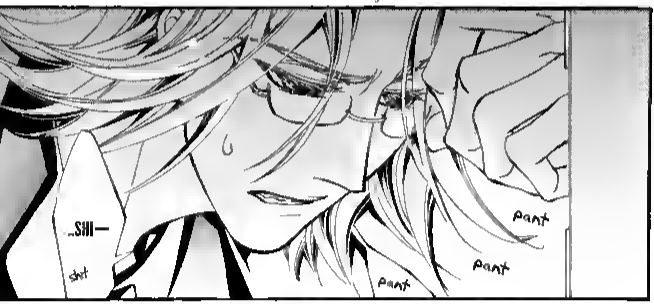
PERIODS OF TIME

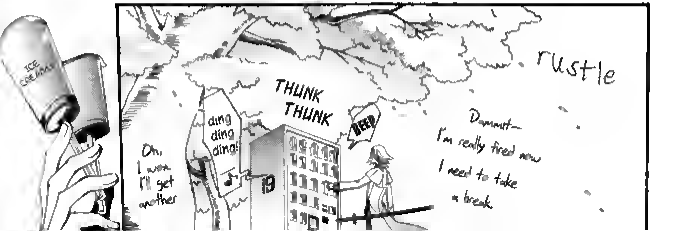
HEIAN PERIOD IS FROM 794-1185
KAMAKURA PERIOD IS FROM 1185-1333
EDO PERIOD IS FROM 1600-1868
BAKUMATSU PERIOD FROM 1853-1867
HEISEI PERIOD IS FROM 1989-PRESENT

Brand: Part One

THAT'S ENOUGH, MIKOTO! HURRY UP AND RETREAT!
DAWN IS ABOUT TO COMPLETELY BREAK
THIS IS A BUSINESS DISTRICT. WE CAN'T JUST KEEP SWINGING OUR SWORDS FOREVER
YOU CAN'T GET RID OF THEM ALL AT ONCE. RE-ESTABLISH THE BARRIER AND—
SHUT UP, NINOMIYA!
I'M GOING TO KILL EVERY EVIL SPIRIT I SEE!
I'M GOING TO HUNT AND HUNT AND HUNT 'TIL I GET THEM ALL!
GOAAAAN
MIKOTO!

SLASH
THAT'S RIGHT
I'M GOING TO KILL THEM ALL—
SLASH


...SHI—
shit
pant
pant
pant


ICE CREAM
Oh, I wonder if I'll get another
ding ding ding!
THUNK THUNK
BEEP
rustle
Dammit— I'm really tired now I need to take a break.

GEEZ.
TELLING ME TO RETREAT LIKE THAT IN FRONT OF THOSE ABOMINATIONS
NINOMIYA, YOU IDIOT
bite
YOU ALREADY KNOW THE REASON WHY I CAN'T RETREAT
I HAD A FATEFUL ROMANCE
HE WAS HEADSTRONG AND CAPRICIOUS BUT ALSO INNOCENT
SAKURA
ALMOST LIKE A DEVIL

My old wounds they're hurting
Ooo
Throb
Ow
I was just a cold sword who had no goals in life
—
Until then the world was gray and had no meaning
Kama-kura period*
—
*Kamakura period is from 1185 - 1333 AD

NO MATTER WHAT THE AGE THERE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN EVIL SPIRITS EXISTING BETWEEN THE EARTH THE HEAVENS AND HUMANS
THE GOSHINTOU NINOMIYA AND MIKOTO WERE CREATED TO VANQUISH THEM
MIKOTO, LET'S SPLIT UP!
ALL RIGHT!
Dash
SLASH
SLASH
THESE SACRED SWORDS CREATED WITH MYSTICAL POWERS FROM THE GODS ARE ABLE TO DESTROY EVIL SPIRITS

touch
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO CUT DOWN THE SAKURA WITH IT TOO...
They're trying so hard...
...to blossom

WHAT A BEAUTIFUL AND STURDY LOOKING SWORD...
THEREFORE, I WILL BESTOW THE NAME SHIOU UPON THE NEW SWORD.
THERE'S ALREADY THE GOSHINTOU NINOMIYA AND MIKOTO
OH, NO. IT'S NOTHING IN COMPARISON TO THOSE TWO SWORDS.
GREETINGS TO THE PEOPLE OF THE HIGH SHINTO SHRINE
MIKOTO, TEACH HIM ALL KINDS OF THINGS
YES
SHIOU DOESN'T HAVE MUCH BATTLE EXPERIENCE AND NEEDS MORE TRAINING
SINCE THEY WERE BOTH CREATED AROUND THE SAME TIME
I WANTED TO ASK MIKOTO TO DO IT

wave
wave
MIKOTO TAKE CARE OF HIM FOR NOW AND DON'T RETURN TO YOUR SWORD FORM FOR A WHILE
YES
Father!
WELL TAKE IT EASY..
patter
patter
DON'T LET THEIR CREATION TAKE CREDIT FOR ANY DEEDS
I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS IS A CONFLICT BREWING BETWEEN WHO WILL BECOME THE NEXT HIGH SHINTO PRIEST
See you later, Mikoto
BUT THIS IS A HUMAN CONFLICT

IT'S SOMETHING THAT HAS NO MEANING FOR US
I'M MIKOTO
HELLO NICE TO MEET YOU- I'M SHIOU.
LET'S GO
Isn't it cute?
Especially since it's still so cold outside.
See?
One sakura flower has blossomed Isn't it impressive?
SIZE HAS NO BEARING ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SWORD
Hah
MIKOTO IS A LITTLE SMALLER THAN I'VE HEARD
WELL ANYWAY
WELL I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT
A SAKURA IS A SAKURA... SO?
DON'T YOU FEEL ANYTHING WHILE LOOKING AT THIS?
MIKOTO

HEY MIKOTO DON'T YOU KNOW THE STORY OF THE FIRST GOSHINTOU KAZUTO?
EVEN THOUGH IT WAS REPREHENSIBLE, HE FELL IN LOVE WITH A PRIEST AND DISAPPEARED FROM THE SHRINE.
I HEARD THEY'D ELOPED AFTER THAT.
BECAUSE OF THAT...
NINOMIYA, YOU... US,
WE WERE SEPARATED FROM OUR REAL SWORDS AND NOW WE'RE LIKE ROAMING SPIRITS
KAZUTO WAS ABLE TO SENSE HIS SWORD AND TAKE HUMAN FORM
WE ON THE OTHER HAND WERE CREATED TO LOOK LIKE HUMANS
OUR ACTIONS ARE RESTRICTED

YOU GUYS ARE BEING SHACKLED BY...
HUMANS.
BUT OUR BIGGEST SHACKLES ARE THE RESTRAINTS ON OUR EMOTIONS
NOT ONLY ARE OUR MOVEMENTS RESTRICTED BUT ALSO OUR THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS
THUMP
SO YOU CAN'T...
FEEL ANGRY OR QUESTION ANYTHING EVEN JUST A LITTLE BIT
THUMP
I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU MEAN
WHAT YOU JUST SAID PROVES IT MIKOTO

ARE YOU SAYING THAT YOU'RE NOT, SHIOU?
WHY DON'T YOU TRY ME?
chuckle
If you get to know me
lift
You'll under-stand too.
SHI...
...OU?
Don't forget.

chuckle
Land
HOW CUTE!
SHIOU! YOUR HANDS AREN'T MOVING!
OH SORRY, SORRY
swing lightly
SO MIKOTO DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
YOUR REASON FOR SWINGING YOUR SWORD
GOAL?
Your emotions are just confined
It doesn't mean that you don't have any

WE FOLLOW OUR MASTERS AND KILL EVIL SPIRITS THAT'S OUR—
NO I DON'T MEAN IT LIKE THAT
LIKE FOR EXAMPLE, TO BECOME STRONGER AND GAIN PRAISE EROM YOUR MASTER OR TO PROTECT SOMEBODY
DREAMS AMBITIONS SOMETHING LIKE THAT
NO.
THERE'S NOTHING BUT OUR MISSIONS UNTIL WE JUST FALL APART
MIKOTO YOU'RE TOO INNOCENT
DO YOU HAVE ONE?
I DO

THERE'S SOMETHING THAT I WANT TO OBTAIN NO MATTER WHAT
SHIOU
YOU'RE RADIATING "SOMETHING" POWERFUL
MAYBE THAT'S
WHAT YOU CALL "EMOTIONS" PERHAPS
HEY WHY ARE YOU DRESSED LIKE THAT?
THOSE ARE CLOTHES THAT HUMANS WEAR
pleased
Doesn't it look good on me~?
We're off-duty so we don't have to wear uniforms
WELCOME HOME!
You must be tired
teeter teeter

Aren't they pretty?
SEE? Right?
ANYWAY, HAVE YOU SEEN THE BACKYARD? THE SAKURA HAVE FULLY BLOOMED
grab
HEY SHIOU!
HURRY! COME COME!
DO YOU LIKE THE SAKURA JUST BECAUSE OF YOUR *NAME?
*THE SECOND KANJI IN SHIOU'S NAME MEANS SAKURA
turn
I DON'T HAVE ANY-THING LIKE THAT
OH YEAH, I HAD SOMETHING SENT FOR YOU, MIKOTO
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!?
THERE ARE THINGS THAT YOU END UP LIKING SO MUCH THAT YOU DON'T CARE WHAT THE REASONS ARE
smile

IT'S NOT LIKE WE CAN'T EAT ANYTHING.
WE'RE NOT ANY DIFFERENT FROM HUMANS.
THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH YOU. WE'RE NOT HUMAN.
BUT MAYBE THEY LOOK A LITTLE TOO CUTE TO EAT.
HERE'S SOME JUJUBE* AND APRICOTS CANDIED IN HONEY SYRUP.
*JUJUBE IS A DATE-LIKE FRUIT.
IT'S DEFINITELY NOT POISONOUS.
I'M THE SAME KIND OF GOSHINTOU AS YOU, AND I'M SAYING THAT SO
I'M NOT AFRAID OF IT'
grab
COME OVER HERE MIKOTO
THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF...
THADUMP
Trust me.

Open your mouth.
touch
SHI-SHIOU
Wider
Chew it.
UHN
Like that When you chew it up small enough
you swallow it
UHN
WHAT A WEIRD FEEL-ING.
lick.
FOR YOUR FIRST TIME,

hee hee hee
blush
NN.
Mikoto
you did it very well
ARE WE DONE? NOW THAT WE KNOW THAT I CAN EAT
HEY MIKOTO,
THE FLAVOR THAT YOU JUST TASTED WAS—
"sweet-ness."

Here
Soft apricots.
There's a lot of sweet, sweet honey on them.
It's all...
yours.
Mikoto

tremble
EVEN THOUGH IT'S SOMETHING THAT I DON'T NEED.
wipe
YOUR FACE IS TURNING PINK.
BOTH THE SAKURA AND MIKOTO'S CHEEKS...
THEY'RE VERY PRETTY.

SHIOU, IT FEELS LIKE
I'M GOING TO BE TAKEN TO A PLACE THAT I DON'T UNDERSTAND
HERE ONE MORE.
SHIOU IS EATING
REALLY SOME-THING.
LIKE THIS?
BUT,
THIS MUCH?
WELL THEY DO SAY IT'S ONE OF THE THREE GREATEST HUMAN NECESSITIES.

AND THEN —
thud
UNLIKE BEING IN A BATTLE
INSTEAD OF FROM THE OUTSIDE IT FEELS LIKE I'M FALLING APART FROM THE INSIDE
drop
DO YOU KNOW THE THREE GREATEST HUMAN NECESSITIES?
SLEEPING
EATING

SHIOU, WHAT ARE YOU —?
SHH. YOU'RE SO UNROMANTIC.
YOU SHOULDN'T RAISE YOUR VOICE AT A TIME LIKE THIS.
twitch
UHN.
Grasp
DWISH
I WANT TO TEACH YOU EVERYTHING YOU DON'T KNOW,
SINCE YOU'RE SO INNOCENT

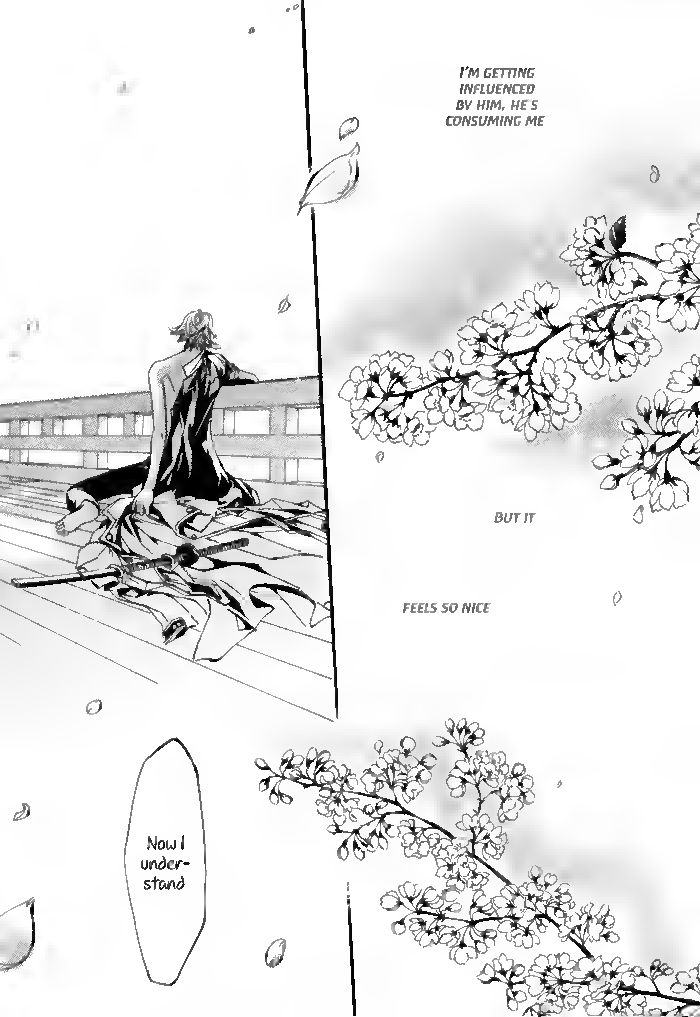
I just simply want to make love to you
DON'T SAY IT LIKE I'M TORMENTING YOU
ARE YOU HAVING FUN...
TORMENTING ME?
slide
shiver
hmm hmm
slide
!
splitch
DO YOU KNOW HOW?
RIGHT HERE
startle

Ah.
shudder
If you don't want to be the uke I don't mind
unfurl
Can you...
...put it in me?
Come here
Mikoto

SHI...
...OU...
grab
NN!
haa
haa
HOW DE-
FENSELESS
INTO
SOMETHING
SO SOFT
THRUSTING

I'M GETTING DRAGGED DOWN INTO
haa haa
A STRANGE AND UNFAMILIAR ABYSS
BUT

rustle
Shiou


I'M GETTING INFLUENCED BY HIM. HE'S CONSUMING ME
BUT IT
FEELS SO NICE
Now I understand

The sakura... they're pretty.

FALL FROM THE HAND OF GOD TO A MERE HUMAN
FIRST MAKE THE THIRD SWORD MIKOTO
I WON'T LET THEM STAND SO TALL FOR-EVER
IN FACT IF WE'D STARTED 150 YEARS PRIOR, WE WOULD'VE BEEN ABOVE THEM
THEY SHOULD BE CRUMBLING ALREADY WITH THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE FIRST SWORD OUR SHRINE CAN'T FALL BEHIND AS A LEGITIMATE SUCCESSOR.
IF HE LOSES HIS SACRED-NESS. HIS POWERS WON'T BE ANYTHING WE NEED TO FEAR.

TO BE CONTINUED

NAKAMA + DANGEROUS PLEASURE present

ZETTAI MEIREI

ABSOLUTE COMMAND

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THE EMPEROR'S HISTORY LESSON

A GOSHINTOU IS A TYPE OF FICTIONAL SACRED SWORD CREATED BY A SHINTO PRIEST INFUSED WITH ITS OWN SPIRIT AND THE POWERS OF THE SHINTO GODS.

A KATANA IS A TYPE OF JAPANESE SWORD WITH A DISTINCTIVE CURVED SINGLE-EDGED BLADE. KAZUTO IS THE ONLY SWORD THAT DOES NOT CARRY ONE AS IT WAS DEVELOPED AFTER HE WAS CREATED.

TAMAHAGANE IS A HIGH CARBON CONTENT STEEL AFTER SMELTING IRON SAND OR BLACK SAND IN A SHINTO RITUALISTIC FASHION.

PERIODS OF TIME

HEIAN PERIOD IS FROM 794-1185
KAMAKURA PERIOD IS FROM 1185-1333
EDO PERIOD IS FROM 1600-1868
BAKUMATSU PERIOD FROM 1853-1867
HEISEI PERIOD IS FROM 1989-PRESENT

烙印：弐
BRAND: PART TWO
float
SHIOU...
EVER SINCE
I HELD YOU

烙印：弐
BRAND: PART TWO
WHAT WE DID
DOESN T LEAVE
MY MIND

ba
ng
Good morning! Mikoto!
SHIOU, WHAT WERE YOU DOING DISAPPEARING FOR SEVERAL DAYS LIKE THAT...?
THAT'S
THAT'S
THERE WAS THIS LOST KITTEN STUCK BELOW THE VERANDA AND IT WAS SHIVERING
I tried to give it some milk, but it didn't like horse's or cow's milk.. so I searched and searched and finally I found fox milk
It just looked so pitiful that I gave it a bath and warmed up its body, but it just wasn't doing so well
Hey, hey!
Mother, please give me some!!
Deep, deep within the forest...
What do you want?

HE DRANK A LOT OF IT EVERYDAY
NOW YOU'RE ALL FLUFFY
nuzzle nuzzle
Mametaro*
*THIS IS THE KITTEN'S NAME
WHY ARE YOU RUNNING AWAY?
I KNEW IT
THUD
Running off
HUOOOOH!
HERE MAME-TAROU, SAY HELLO TO MIKOTO
hold out
WE DON'T REALLY GET ALONG WITH CATS VERY WELL.
GEEZ YOU'RE SO THOUGHT-LESS
YOU DIDN'T EVEN STOP TO CONSIDER WHAT I'M FEELING
MAYBE TO YOU, ALL OF THAT DIDN'T EVEN MEAN ANYTHING

I HAD NO IDEA HOW TO FACE YOU ABOUT IT AGAIN
I WAS CONSTANTLY...
AL KOTO...
WELL ANYWAY
THERE'S PROBABLY SOMETHING WRONG WITH ME
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH YOU
THUDUMP
hold tightly
YOU WERE CONSTANTLY THINKING ABOUT ME HUH?
I'm so happy

Your honest feelings are beauti-ful
touch
DON'T BE SHY.
SHOW ME THAT CUTE FACE
I'M NOT FOR DIS-PLAY, YOU KNOW...

STOP SAYING STUPID THINGS, WE'RE GOING.
WE HAVE A MISSION.
EH? NOW? NO WAY
I'm not e-emotionally prepared yet!
THEN, FOR WHAT REASON ARE YOU HERE, SHIOU?
SWEEPING WHOOSH
RAAAAWRRR
RAAAAWRRR
IT WILL END QUICKLY IF YOU DO IT JUST LIKE HOW YOU WERE TRAINED
DON'T WORRY
YES MIKO-TO

THE MAJORITY OF THEM WILL PROBABLY BE HUNTED DOWN AND DESTROYED BY NINOMIYA
DEEP WITHIN THE MOUNTAINS, OUR HIGH PRIEST HAS ESTABLISHED A BARRIER WHICH EVIL SPIRITS CAN'T PENETRATE
THIS TIME OUR MISSION IS TO VANQUISH THE EVIL SPIRITS HAUNTING AN ABANDONED SHRINE
HOWLING WIND
NOT HAVING ANY COMBAT EXPERIENCE.
WHAT KIND OF ENVIRONMENT DID YOUR MASTER—
MY HEART IS STARTING TO RACE
SO WE ARE GUARDING THE REAR AND FINISHING OFF ANY SMALL FRY THAT TRY TO ESCAPE RIGHT?
T/N: THEY ARE APPARENTLY SPEAKING TELEPATHICALLY OR THROUGH THEIR SPIRIT FORMS.
PAY ATTENTION, SHIOU!
HERE IT COMES!
FLASH

GRAAA!
IT WENT THAT WAY
SHIOU, KILL IT!
crash
dodge
EH..?
SWOOP
CAN'T HE SEE IT?
CLANG

turn
CLACK
Eh?
SWOOP
split
CRASH
SHI—!
LEAP
SHIT, I COULDN FINISH IT OFF!

FLASH
GYAAAAA!
!!
Land

RUSTLE
NINO
MIYA
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
...NN

THIS ISN'T A CHILDREN'S PLAY-GROUND.
YOU'RE USELESS IF YOU CAN'T EVEN DO THE JOB.
spark
spark
FWOOSH
NINO-MIYA—?
click
MISSION ACCOM-PLISHED
I REALIZE THAT I WASN'T REALLY MYSELF BUT
DID I MAKE HIM MAD?
click
WHY DOES HE HAVE SO MUCH HOSTILITY TOWARDS ME?
...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN IT'S NOTHING?
LET ME SEE IT! IT LOOKS LIKE IT HURTS
But but but..
OH, IT'S NO-THING
DON'T LOSE YOUR FOCUS NEXT TIME SHIOU BECAUSE IT WILL BE TROUBLE IF YOU GET HIT BY THE YOUKI*

*TN: EVIL SPIRIT ENERGY

YOU'RE DOING THINGS LIKE A HUMAN AGAIN
AH, BUT TAKING CARE OF WOUNDS..
IS ALSO KIND OF LIKE A PRAYER
SAYING "PLEASE DON'T HURT ANYMORE."
THOUGH IT'S NOT SOMETHING I HAVE ANY RIGHT TO SAY

NO
WHEN I THOUGHT THAT YOU'D GET HURT
Fu...
I JUST REACTED
DAMAGING MY REPUTATION ISN'T SUCH A BAD FEELING
EVEN AFTER THE BATTLE I STILL FEEL GOOD
He's radiating happiness!
MIKOTO!
YOU RE SMILING!
!!?
SMI-
?
Eh? Oh, why are you getting so embarrassed?—
This was the first time...
You have such a cute smile

Peaceful breeze
light breeze
BUT MOST OF THESE HAVEN'T BLOOMED YET.
THE ONES ON THE MOUNTAIN ARE A DIFFERENT TYPE, BUT THEY'LL ALL BLOSSOM SOON.
THEY'LL BE FILLED WITH BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS.
BECAUSE I REMEMBERED... THAT YOU LIKE THE SAKURA.
THANK YOU.
HEY MIKOTO, ABOUT BEFORE...
YOU WERE CAREFUL NOT TO CUT THE SAKURA, WEREN'T YOU?
When the Mountain Sakura trees all blossom let's come and see these together
ALL RIGHT...
CHIKA CHIKA CHIKA
MIKKOTO-OOOOO!

I'M SORRY BUT
THERE'S A JOB WE HAVE TO DO EVERY MORNING. WE HAVE TO STRENGTHEN THE BARRIERS.
IF WE WAIT UNTIL THIS AFTERNOON, THE WINDS WILL BLOW ALL THE PETALS AWAY
I HAD HANAMI* SNACKS MADE FOR US SO LET'S GO VIEW THE MOUNTAIN SAKURA BLOSSOMS NOW!
YOU'RE WEARING THAT AGAIN
PORTABLE JUBAKO**
*FLOWER VIEWING, NAMELY SAKURA AND UME BLOSSOMS
**A 3-TIERED DECORATIVE BOX USED DURING HOLIDAYS\SPECIAL OCCASIONS AND HOLDS AN ASSORTMENT OF FOODS
I'LL GIVE YOU THESE
HERE
OPEN
slide
HEY THAT'S
LET'S GO.

YOU MUST BE TIRED FROM ALWAYS WORKING SO SERIOUSLY
take
AREN'T YOU HUNGRY?
AH
AN
YOU RE SO PERSUASIVE IT'S LIKE YOU RE MY ADDICTION
chuckle
HEY MIKOTO
IF YOU DON'T STRENGTHEN THE BARRIERS FOR JUST ONE DAY IT WON'T REALLY MESS ANYTHING UP, WILL IT?
chew
SO- LET'S GO
THE APRICOTS WE EAT WHILE VIEWING THE MOUNTAIN SAKURA BLOSSOMS.
Shut
hee hee
very very sweet
WILL BE

HMM.
WHERE IS MIKOTO?

They've finally bloomed!
SO PRETTY
rustle
WOBBLE
SHOU...
HEY.
THE APRI-COTS
Grab
EH?
THE APRICOTS. DIDN'T YOU SAY "WE'LL EAT THEM WHILE VIEWING THE SAKURA BLOSSOMS?"
offers
Here. please take them. They're all for you
THAT'S RIGHT.

DROOL
BUT IF THIS WILL BREAK MY SHACKLES
IT PROBABLY ISN'T A BAD THING
PEOPLE GET DRUNK WITH SAKE AND DANCE LIKE FOOLS OTHER TIMES THEY BECOME COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PEOPLE
IS THIS LIKE THAT?
THERE'S NOT ENOUGH,
SHIOU, GIVE ME MORE
HEY, MORE!
GRAB
SORRY, THAT WAS THE LAST BOX
WHY DON'T WE EAT THE HANAMI LUNCH?
YOU'RE HUR- HURTING ME, MIKOTO
REALIZE
WHY AM I CRAVING THESE APRICOTS SO MUCH THAT I CAN'T STAND IT?
I'M SORRY, SHIOU
I'M SORRY TOO. I SHOULD HAVE MADE MORE BEFORE WE CAME.
THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH ME CRAVING THEM SO MUCH THAT I'M MAKING SHIOU WORRY

MIKOTO, YOU'RE JUST NOT USED TO EATING YET.
chuckle chuckle
OR MAYBE GOSHINTOU JUST SHOULDN'T ACT LIKE HUMANS.
IS IT REALLY THAT?
Uhg
I'M SORRY.
IT FEELS LIKE I'M A LITTLE DRUNK
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, THERE'S PLENTY OF TIME
WE CAN JUST REST BEFORE HEADING BACK.
I CAN FEEL THAT THE SAKURA ARE BEAUTIFUL
THESE SAKURA HAVE A DEEPER COLOR THAN THE ONES ON THE GROUNDS
I CAN UNDERSTAND THAT DIFFERENCE NOW.
flutter
SHIOU
YOU TAUGHT ME THAT
drift

SORRY FOR TOUCHING IT WITHOUT ASKING...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
clack
BUT...
You're beautiful Mikoto
Your spirit even in sword form... truly beautiful.
MAKES ME ALMOST THINK IT WOULDN'T BE SO BAD TO BE CUT DOWN BY THIS KATANA...

Thud
OVER HERE
SHIOU
MIKOTO?
Grab
I AM
NOT IN THE KATANA RIGHT NOW
SQUEEZE
NN
It's not enough, give me more.
THERE ARE NO MORE APRI-COTS,
BUT I CAN GET MORE FOR YOU AGAIN.
NN.
AH.
Lick
slide
EH?
OH YOU MEAN ME?

twitch
SHUDDER
AHN
IS IT ALL RIGHT TO DO THIS HERE?
mm...
LICK
HA..
I want you.
Right now.
It's all right if it's you Mikoto
I'll give all of myself — to you.

AH...
MI...
MI...
KOTO
...
AH...
SUCH
AH...
suck
suck
Shiou..
HAA...
I want to put it in you
but this time..
I want to do it nicely
THEN
...
...PUT YOUR FINGER...
...
licking
THANK YOU..

twitch
SHOU
IN ME HERE
splitch
YEAH JUST LIKE THAT
YOU'RE SO GOOD
squitch
squitch
squitch
squitch
AH.
SQUISH
NN
AH.
Smile
IT'S... ALL RIGHT NOW.
HA...
Come, Mikoto.

HAA
AH...
NN AH...
NN... AH...
AH... AH. AH!
I'VE NEVER KNOWN ANYTHING THIS STRONG BEFORE

I WANT TO KNOW MORE
EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU
side
HEY NINOMIYA,
LATELY I'VE BEEN SEEING THE WORLD IN A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT LIGHT.
I NEVER REALIZED IT BEFORE BUT NINOMIYA, YOU REALLY KIND OF HAVE A SOUR LOOK ALL THE TIME
Ah-ha-ha
MIKOTO, WHERE WERE YOU THE PAST 3 DAYS?
YOUR WORK—
I'M DOING IT...
THE HEAD SHINTO PRIEST TOLD ME NOT TO RETURN TO MY SWORD FORM AND TO TAKE CARE OF SHIOU.

WHA-WHAT THE ?
!!
IT'S AS IF YOU RE A CHILD WHO JUST GOT A NEW TOY.
I HAVE NO INTENTIONS OF TALKING TO A PUPPET
WHAT DO YOU KNOW? YOU'VE NEVER FEET ANYTHING IN YOUR LIFE!
IF YOU TALK TO SHIGU, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND AT LEAST SOME EMOTIONS TOO
...

NINOMIYA, ISN'T THAT WHAT YOU CALL "JEALOUSY"?
I'M TOO INVOLVED WITH A NEW TOY? WHAT DO YOU KNOW ANYWAY?
EMOTIONS ARE MYSTERIOUS
EACH ONE HAS A NAME
AND ALL ARE RUNNING THROUGH MY CHEST IN WAVES
SHIOU COME BACK SOON
I WANT TO GO TO THE MITSUSEN WATEKEALS AND EAT CANDIED APRICOTS
THEN
hee hee
SHIOU IS HE BACK?
HM,
MAME-TARO...
Diing
Diing
Diing
slide
HEY SHIOU
WHEN DID YOU GET BACK? WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY...?

dead silence
APRICOTS
SHUDDER
AH
ZAP
CREAK
REALIZE
WHERE

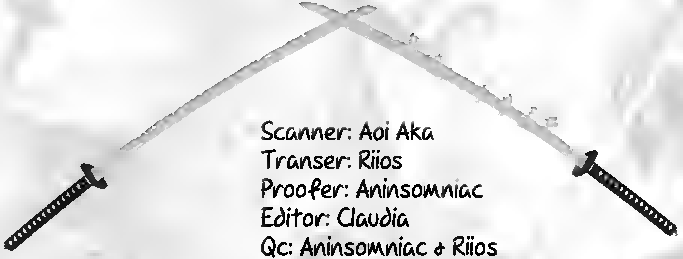
glow
SPWOOSH
WHA
WHAT IS THIS ?
BOOM
A WARD!? IT'S A CORRUPTED SOUL!!
IT'S CORRODING THE SACRED SOUL IN MY SWORD
IT'S EATING INTO BLADE DEFILING IT!
OOHHHH
SHAKING
UH, UH, UH. NO PEEKING, MIKOTO. THAT WOULD BE A SIN EVEN FOR A HUMAN.
!!
OPEN

THIS IS SO INCON-VENIENT
BEING FOUND OUT THIS EARLY
OKIT
TCH!!
WHAT THE HELL DID YOU HAVE ME EAT!?
SHIOU!!

NAKAMA + DANGEROUS PLEASURE present

ZETTAI MEIREI

ABSOLUTE COMMAND



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THESE APRICOTS THAT YOU HAD ME EAT...
THEY HAVE CORRUPTED SOULS SEALED WITHIN THE WARDS... DON'T THEY!?
IT'S CORROD-ING, DEFILING AND EATING INTO MY SOUL...
smile
THAT'S A REALLY SCARY INTER-PRETATION, MIKOTO.
THE APRICOTS WERE— A TOOL TO BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN US
PEOPLE HAVE BEEN TAUGHT AND CONDITIONED TO THINK THAT THESE CORRUPTED SOULS ARE BAD FOR YOU.
IT WAS THE KEY TO OBTAIN A FREE HEART, THAT'S ALL.

lean
THOUGH YOU SAY
THAT I DEFILED YOU
OUR FIRST NIGHT TOGETHER AND BEING WITH YOU UNDER THE MOUNTAIN SAKURA
They weren't all that bad, were they?

BRAND: PART 3

BUT...
THIS TWISTED CORRUPTED FEELING
YOU UNLOCKED THE CHAINS BINDING ME
NNL
FLL
lick
YOU BROUGHT COLOR TO MY WORLD

...STOP IT!
SWISH
DON'T LIE... TO ME!
THOSE APRICOTS— THEY'RE CORRUPTING OUR TRUE ESSENCE.

SO YOU'RE GOING TO ADMIT THAT THESE ARE POISONOUS TO THE SOUL...?
clench
NN
IF I HADN'T USED SOME-THING LIKE THAT,
YOU NEVER WOULD'VE GIVEN ME A SECOND GLANCE
DON'T REPORT ME MIKOTO
IF I'M AC-CUSED I'LL PROBABLY BE DESTROYED

I don't want us to be separated, Mikoto
tremble
!!
Y-YOU!
WHAT... ARE YOU DOING!?

I WON'T USE THE APRICOTS ANY-MORE
I WON'T TRY TO CHANGE YOU ANY-MORE
SO JUST LET ME STAY BY YOUR SIDE
Then I'll do anything for you
PLEASE, MIKOTO

What would you do?
Anything that you desire.
Then... try something.

I CAN SEE THAT YOUR WORDS ARE DECEPTIVE
THIS ISN'T RIGHT
fwooo
I'M ANGRY WITH YOU, BUT
slurp
light lick
ha
lick
suck

WOW, YOU SURE ARE EXPERIENCED.
EVEN JUST DOING SOMETHING LIKE THIS GIVES YOU AN ERECTION, EH?
twitch
tremble
UHN...
YOU'RE GOING TO DO EVERYTHING I WISH, RIGHT?
DON'T COME FIRST...
Yes, Mikoto

YOU...
SUCK.
NN.
NNN...
AREN'T YOU ASHAMED? HOW CAN YOU EVEN BEAR TO STILL BE HERE!?
DON'T YOU HAVE ANY PRIDE!?
YOU DECEIVED ME.
YOU GOT CLOSE TO ME IN ORDER TO DRAW OUT ALIS THROUGH DECEPTION.
NN.

EVERYTHING'S BEEN FOUND OUT. AND YET, WHY ARE YOU STILL HERE...?
WHY AM I STILL HERE...?

Haa
IN FRONT OF YOUR EYES...
Haa
Haa
Haa
HA...
shiver
Creak...
NN!
UHN...

CREAK
Ah... NN
haa
Haa
CREAK
haa— Haa!
thrust
thrust
NN... NNG!
SHIOU...
thrust
MI... KOTO...!

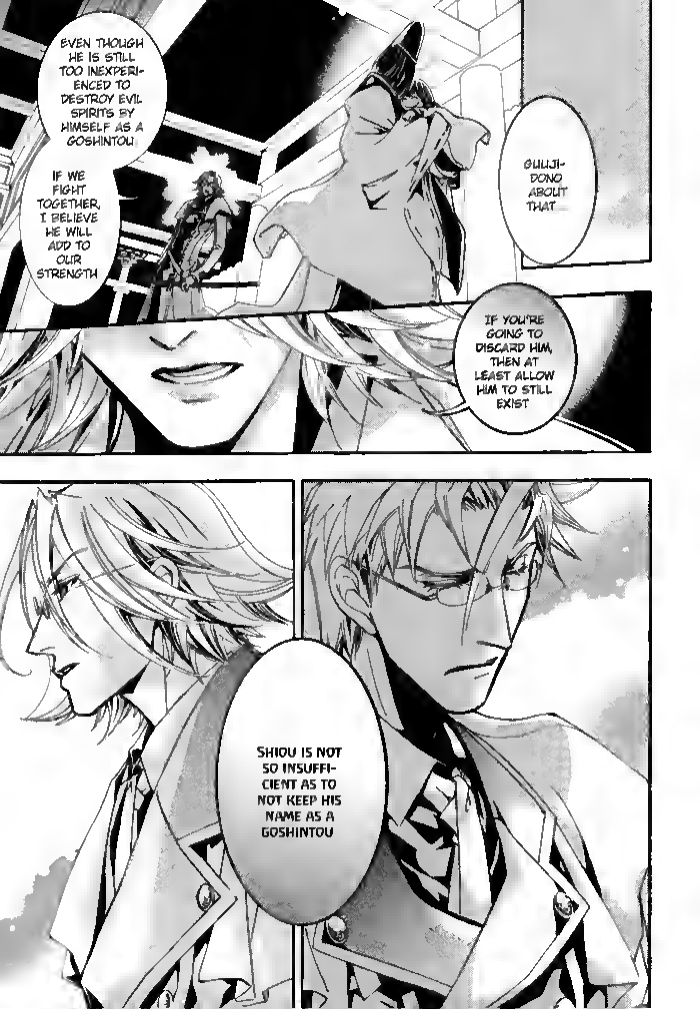
YOU'RE NOT NORMAL.
NO.
I AM...
PROBABLY THE ONE WHO ISN'T NORMAL.
I JUST COULDN'T KEEP MYSELF FROM
DOING IT.

LOOK AT HOW IMPRESSIVE THESE ARE
THESE PICTURE SCROLLS
chatter
rustle
THEY'RE PRIZED ITEMS SENT AS GIFTS TO THE SHRINE FROM KAMAKURA-DONO

Heh
Eek!
Oo Ohhhhh
MIKOTO.
LOOKS LIKE THIS WAS MEANT TO INTIMIDATE THE SHRINE.
OH, WHAT IS THIS...?
WHAT DO YOU THINK, NINOMIYA?
DRAW
gasp
NGH!?
SHOCK
SHOCK
IT'S A MINOR EVIL SPIRIT. PROBABLY A WARNING.
SLASH

IT SEEMS MORE AND MORE LIKE KAMAKURA-DONO WANTS TO EXPEL OUR SHRINE FROM THE CAPITAL.
YOU CAN JUST FEEL THE BAD INTENTIONS
COULD THIS BE THE REASON WHY THE EVIL SPIRITS HAVE INCREASED IN NUMBERS?
I'M ALSO HEARING RUMORS ABOUT SOME MEMBERS IN MY BRANCH BEING TAKEN OVER TO KAMAKURA-DONO'S SIDE
IT MIGHT BE TIME FOR US AS THE HEAD SHINTO SHRINE TO CAREFULLY EVALUATE AND CLARIFY SHIOU'S PURPOSE.

startle
Ni-Ninomiya-san...
TRIP
IF HE'S ALL LOOKS AND NO SKILL THEN HIS NAME AS THE FOURTH GOSHINTOU SHOULD BE REPEALED
THEN WE CAN JUST KEEP HIM AS A REGULAR KATANA.
SOME WITHIN OUR BRANCH MAY BE DISSATISFIED BUT WE ARE THE ONES AT THE TOP
float
smile
!


EVEN THOUGH HE IS STILL TOO INEXPERIENCED TO DESTROY EVIL SPIRITS BY HIMSELF AS A GOSHINTOU
IF WE FIGHT TOGETHER, I BELIEVE WE WILL ADD TO OUR STRENGTH
GUUJI-DONO ABOUT THAT...
IF YOU'RE GOING TO DISCARD HIM, THEN AT LEAST ALLOW HIM TO STILL EXIST
SHIOU IS NOT SO INSUFFICIENT AS TO NOT KEEP HIS NAME AS A GOSHINTOU

raining
I LIED TO MY MASTER FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE I WAS CREATED.
MY CUTTING EDGE WILL PROBABLY LOSE ITS POWER.
twinge
twinge

I CAN'T STAY AWAY
I CAN'T THROW IT AWAY
EVEN BEING LIKE THIS I AM—
THIS IS THE PROOF OF ME LOSING MY VALUE AS A GOSHINTOU
AND I UNDERSTAND BECAUSE I ENDED UP LIKE THIS
MIKOTO.
open

WHAT'S GOING ON?
EH? SHIOU
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE THINKING ABOUT SOMETHING?
HE CAN'T SEE IT?
cover
NO, NOT REALLY
I'M CAUSING YOU TROUBLE AREN'T I?
NO, YOU'RE NOT.
I... CHOSE THIS PATH.

THE SAKURA
EH?
ALL MY LIFE I'VE NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT
WHEN THEY'D BLOSSOM OR WHEN THEY'D SCATTER
THE IDEA OF TIME PASSING BY...
...IS FRIGHT-ENING.
Being happy getting angry or scared emotions certainly are chaotic

I'm sorry, for messing things up
DON'T SAY THAT.
YOU'RE GOING TO DO AS I DESIRE RIGHT?
So smile.
What's wrong? Aren't you more skilled at it than I am?
EVEN IF I CONTINUE TO LOSE MY PATH AS A GOSHINTOU
caress
Nn

I AM SO
VERY
SATISFIED
Don't ever leave my side Shiou

IF YOU'RE BY MY SIDE, THEN THAT'S ALL I NEED.
I'VE RETURNED, TAKAAKIRA-SAMA

ISN'T ALL OF THIS ENOUGH NOW?
I'VE ALREADY SUCCEEDED IN REDUCING MIKOTO'S POWER.
IF WE CAN FIGHT TOGETHER, THAT WOULD BE BETTER
TO-GETHER? DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH
IF WE BECOME THE TOP SHRINE THEN THERE'S NO REASON TO!
meow
meow
ding
ding
GRAB
UHH... NN!
IF YOU WERE STRONG, WE WOULDN'T HAVE HAD TO DO THIS IH SUCH A ROUHO ABOUT WAY!

YOU HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN WHY YOUR NAME HAS SAKURA* IN IT HAVE YOU?
SLAM
GEEZ, YOU'RE REALLY STARTING TO SAY A LOT OF STUPID THINGS.
WHY DO YOU THINK I'VE TAUGHT YOU SKILLS IN BED?
YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A PLACEHOLDER FOR THE FIFTH GOSHINTOU THAT I'LL CREATE.
1. EMBLEM
THE PREPARATIONS ARE READY.
THIS IS PERFECT; TOMORROW IS A NEW MOON.
CONVERT THE CAT INTO A SPIRIT VESSEL.

I CAN'T ANYMORE
SQUEEZE
NO MORE. PLEASE FORGIVE ME!
Pulse
SHIOU, OBEY ME! THIS IS AN ORDER FROM THE MASTER OF YOUR SWORD!
...!!
shutter
CREAK

I ACCEPT YOUR WILL.
I'LL ACTIVATE THE FOHBIDDEN SPELL...
...UTILIZING A THOUSAND EVIL SPIRITS...
...AND DESTROY MIKOTO.

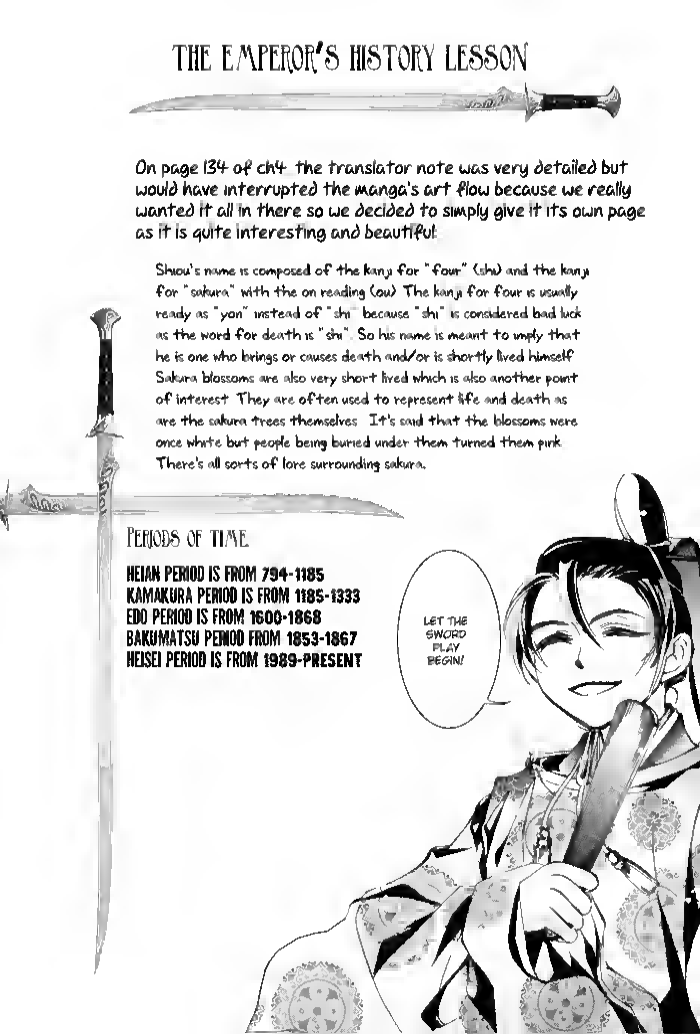
THE EMPEROR'S HISTORY LESSON

On page 134 of ch4 the translator note was very detailed but would have interrupted the manga's art flow because we really wanted it all in there so we decided to simply give it its own page as it is quite interesting and beautiful

Shiou's name is composed of the kanji for "four" (shi) and the kanji for "sakura" with the on reading (ou) The kanji for four is usually ready as "yon" instead of "shi" because "shi" is considered bad luck as the word for death is "shi". So his name is meant to imply that he is one who brings or causes death and/or is shortly lived himself. Sakura blossoms are also very short lived which is also another point of interest They are often used to represent life and death as are the sakura trees themselves It's said that the blossoms were once white but people being buried under them turned them pink There's all sorts of lore surrounding sakura.

PERIODS OF TIME

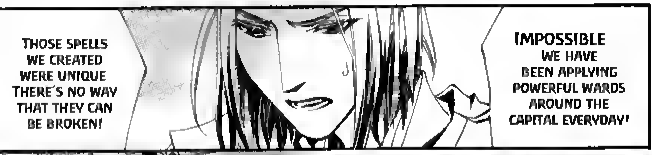
HEIAN PERIOD IS FROM 794-1185
KAMAKURA PERIOD IS FROM 1185-1333
EDO PERIOD IS FROM 1600-1868
BAKUMATSU PERIOD FROM 1853-1867
HEISEI PERIOD IS FROM 1989-PRESENT



BRAND PART FOUR
GROWING RUMBLE
realize
THE AIR HAS CHANGED
RUMBLE
BOOM
Scrape
slither
Scrape
THIS IS—
THERE'S AN OMINOUS PRESENCE APPROACHING.
RUMBLE

BRAND: PART FOUR

NINO-MIYA!
GUILD-DONO THERE ARE EVIL SPIRITS APPROACHING AT HIGH SPEEDS FROM ALL FOUR CORNERS INTO THE CAPITAL
BUILDINGS ON THE OUTSKIRTS ARE ALREADY BEING ATTACKED IF THIS CONTINUES THE IMPERIAL PALACE WILL ALSO BE IN DANGER
ADDITIONALLY THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT THE OPENING TO THE BARRIER WAS CREATED FROM THE INSIDE


IMPOSSIBLE
WE HAVE BEEN APPLYING POWERFUL WARDS AROUND THE CAPITAL EVERYDAY!
THOSE SPELLS WE CREATED WERE UNIQUE THERE'S NO WAY THAT THEY CAN BE BROKEN!

...
WHERE IS SHIOU
AND HIS MASTER?

click
YOUR ORDERS?
I'M STRICTLY JUST YOUR SWORD.
ESPECIALLY FOR SOMEONE WHO NEVER EVEN THINKS ABOUT TAKING LIVES.
I'M SORRY NINOMIYA, I'M GOING TO END UP DIRTYING YOUR HANDS...
vwoosh
NINOMIYA, DO YOU THINK THEY'RE TRYING TO STAGE A COUP?
ARE THEY TRYING TO UNDERMINE MY AUTHORITY AND MY NAME BY CAUSING THIS DESTRUCTION?
BOOM BOOM
gust
MASTER,
FOR THOSE OF US WHO DON'T HAVE ANY EMOTIONS, THOSE KINDS OF CONSIDERATIONS ARE UNNECESSARY.

GOOOOOHHH!
THE SKY IS BECOMING DISTORTED
SLITHER
THE WARDS ARE GOING TO BREAK
THE EVIL SPIRITS ARE GOING TO FLOOD INTO THE CAPITAL.
NGH
UGH
SO MUCH PAIN THIS ISN'T GOOD
SHIOU YOU DID SOMETHING, DION'T YOU?
I TOLD YOU TO STAY BY MY SIDE

BAM
CLANG
whoosh
Gyaaaaa!
DAMN!
EVEN INSIDE THE CENTER OF THE SHRINE!?
BUT TO ALSO ATTRACT EVIL SPIRITS
MAYBE THE CORRUPTED SOULS WEREN'T JUST TO REDUCE MY ABILITIES
THOSE APRICOTS
hiss
MAYBE THE REASON THE BARRIER IS BREAKING
IS ORIGINATING FROM ME.
COLD SWEAT
WHOOSH
SWIRL
WHOOSH
SWIRL
SWIRL
SWIRL
WHOOSH

"THIS IS A KEY FOR YOU TO OBTAIN A FREE HEART."
MAYBE THAT WAS THE PLAN ALL ALONG WHEN HE GAVE ME ALL THOSE APRICOTS
HM... WELL, I GUESS YOU BEAT ME
A FREE HEART?
I JUST CAN'T SEEM TO SUMMON THE WILL TO FIGHT
SQUEEZE
POP!
NINOMIYA.
TURN
MIKOTO.

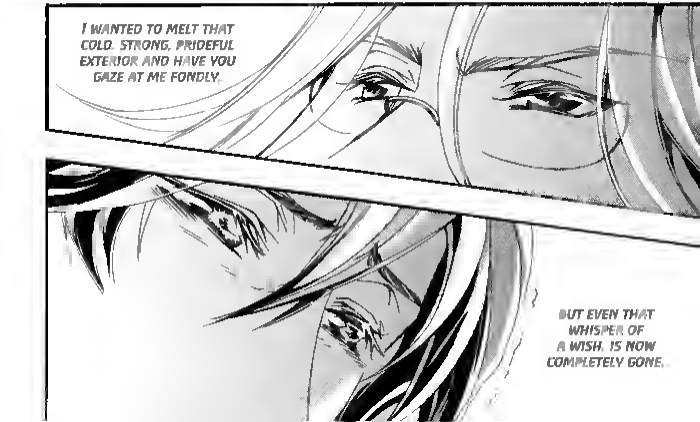
CAN YOU TRUST ME NINOMIYA?
TRUST? WORDS LIKE THAT ARE UNNEEDED
GOSHINTOU CANNOT GO AGAINST THE ORDERS OF THEIR MASTERS
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT I'VE ALREADY LIED...
...AND I TOLD GUIJI-DONO THAT SHOU CAN BE TRUSTED
gust
MIKOTO, OUR REAL SELF IS ONLY APPARENT WITH OUR ACTIONS
Leap
OUR MASTER ORDERED ME TO SUPPRESS TAKAKIRA-DONO I'LL LEAVE THIS AREA TO YOU
I'LL TAKE ON THE MAJORITY OF THE EVIL SPIRITS

Shine
clack
ENE-MIES
THAT SWORD WILL NEVER GO BACK INTO ITS SCABBARD UNTIL THE ENEMIES ARE EXTERMI-NATED
!
THRU
Mosh
fwoo
GOOD EVENING, MIKOTO.

I DON'T EVEN KNOW.
WHO KNOWS?
YOUR DEMEANOR HAS CHANGED AGAIN...
WHICH ONE IS THE REAL YOU?
ARE THOSE APRICOTS A BEACON?
AM I FOOD FOR THE EVIL SPIRITS, SHIOU?
EVIL GRIN
THE ONLY THING THAT CAN BREAK A GOSHINTOU IS A POWERFUL FORCE OF EVIL SPIRITS.
A THOUSAND EVIL SPIRITS ARE GOING TO COME DOWN ON YOU MIKOTO AND NOT ONLY WILL THEY PLUNGE YOU INTO DARKNESS,
OAAOOHHHH
YOU WILL BE TORN APART ALONG WITH THIS LAND...
...AND DIE.

ARE YOU TELLING ME THAT YOU CALLED THE EVIL SPIRITS?
...!
THUD
THEN YOUR PRIDE AS A GOSHINTOU—
HA!
THAT AGAIN? PRIDE IS SOMETHING FOR THOSE WHO HAVE POWER AND I'M NOT ONE OF THEM
DIDN'T YOU NOTICE? I DON'T HAVE ANY OF THE GOSHINTOU QUALITIES.
I'M A FAILURE AS A GOSHINTOU.
THAT'S WHY MY NAME HAS THE KANJI FOR SAKURA
I AM BRILLIANT FOR A MOMENT BUT THEN SCATTER AWAY LIKE A SAKURA BLOSSOM. THAT'S WHAT MY MASTER DESIRES
TAKAAKIRA-SAMA WANTS TO CREATE THE FIFTH GOSHINTOU QUICKLY
MY NAME SHIOU MEANS "SAKURA OF DEATH."

Grab
MY ENTIRE EXISTENCE WAS ONLY TO DESTROY MIKOTO.
grip
swirl
EVEN IF IT WAS AN UNCLEAN BOND
THERE'S NOTHING LEFT FOR ME TO SMILE ABOUT IN THIS WORLD


I WANTED TO MELT THAT COLD, STRONG, PRIDEFUL EXTERIOR AND HAVE YOU GAZE AT ME FONDLY.
BUT EVEN THAT WHISPER OF A WISH, IS NOW COMPLETELY GONE.

I WANT IT TO BE OVER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
So please die with me .
SLAM
THIS HELL

CHORE
Hisss
CHE YOU IDIOT EVEN IF IT WAS YOUR MASTER'S ORDER,
YOU DION'T HAVE TO DO THAT TO THE KITTEN YOU'D BEEN TAKING CARE OF SO FONDLY.
howling wind
ching
ching
chang
THE SPIRIT VESSEL !?
Heh
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU TO NOT RESIST, MIKOTO.
SLITHER

YOU KNOW I'M ALSO A GOSHI-NTOU.
I CAN'T GO AGAINST THE ORDERS OF MY MASTER.
SLITHER
TWITCH
HOWL
SLITHER
SHOULDN'T YOU BE WORRYING ABOUT YOURSELF MIKOTO?
RAM
RAM

WHO CARES ABOUT THAT! THE ONE STANDING IN FRONT OF ME ISN'T YOUR MASTER.
IT'S YOU!
Ram
Ram
YOU CHANGED ME WITH YOUR WORDS, YOUR BODY...!
SO THAT I COULD ACT AND FEEL LIKE A HUMAN!
BUT, MIKOTO, YOU TOO
AND NOW YOU WON'T EVEN SHEATHE YOUR SWORD AND GO AGAINST YOUR MASTER?
smirk
SHIOU, YOU RE AN IDIOT.
SLASH
THE ONLY TIME I SWING MY SWORD IS AGAINST AN ENEMY— ONLY THEM!
GYAAAH!

THE KIND OF DESPICABLE PERSON WHO'D KNOWINGLY POISON ME AND TURN ME INTO BAIT FOR EVIL SPIRITS THE PERSON WHO I'VE SHARED MY EMOTIONS WITH
A TRAITOR WHO WOULD TAINT THE NAME OF A GOS-HINTOU
DRIP DRIP
GEEZ, I JUST CAN'T
BUT,
EVEN IF THAT'S ALL YOU ARE, THAT'S STILL ALL RIGHT.

Ha...
WHAT'S WRONG, SHIOU? A TRAITOR SHOULDN'T MAKE THAT FACE. WHY AREN'T YOU SMILING? THIS IS WHAT YOU WANTED, RIGHT?
SEEP
SEEP
GOING ON A HANAMI AND MAKING LOVE AS IF IT WERE A DREAM.
NOT EVERY-THING HAS TO BE AS PRETTY AS THAT.
No matter what cruel things you do to me, if that's all you are...

...at least let me taste it all.
Be mine.
squeeze
Mi.
koto
COUGH

slide
!!
SLAM
SLAM
WAIT...
EVIL SPIRITS!
NO...
CRASH
CRASH
CRASH
NOOOO!
CRASH
SLICE
CRASH

NINOMIYA, YOU BASTARD. YOU WOULD ATTACK A HUMAN?
GRIP
THIS WAS ALL GUUJI-DONO'S ORDERS.
MY GRUDGE WON'T GO AWAY JUST BY KILLING ME.
SHIOU WILL... DEFI-NITELY...

Crack
TRUSTING A PUPPET WHO'S NO MORE THAN A CHILD...
!?
CLACK
shatter
shatter
sparkle
shatter
shimmer
shatter
ROOOOOOOOOAR
PLUNK
SHI... OU...
WHA-?
YOU...
PLUNK
PLUNK

GRACK
GRACK
BITE
GRACK
GRACK
NO MATTER WHAT I DO, FOR THAT ONE TRUTH, I WON'T HAVE ANY REGRETS.
MY WORDS, MY EXISTENCE— THEY'RE NOTHING BUT LIES.
SO, I HAVE TO
GRIND
BURST
EVIL SPIRITS!
RETURN BACK TO ME!
THE TRUTH IS

AHHHH!
STAB
THRUST
WITHIN MY HEART,
THRUST
STAB
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO TAKE MY PLACE!
SHIOU!
THRUST
YOU'VE REVERSED THE SPELL. NOW IT CAN'T BE UNDONE
hissss
I LOVE YOU MIKOTO SO...
IF THIS CONTINUES YOU'LL—
GRAB
smile
YOU'LL FALL APART!
SURGE
MY BODY TO A THOUSAND PIECES...
...FOR A THOUSAND YEARS...
SEAL
...SEAL A THOUSAND ENEMIES.

hisss
UHH... UM...? THE SPELL DIDN'T ACTIVATE...?
I DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH POWER?
!!
SHATTER
I-I'M SORRY
I WAS TRYING TO SHOW OFF BUT
Uhga.
I-IDIOT.
YOU DIDN'T EVEN THINK...
IT COMPLETELY FAILED...

I GUESS THAT'S REALLY LIKE YOU
BUT
... REALLY?
Rattle
RIP
SHRED
IF THIS CONTINUES, SHIOU WILL BE KILLED BY THE EVIL SPIRITS
BUT THE SPELL CAN'T BE UNDONE.

DON'T GIVE UP, SHIOU!
I WON'T LET YOU LEAVE ME THIS WAY!
TREMBLE
DON'T HESITATE! THE ONLY WAY TO SAVE SHIOU IS TO COMPLETE THE SPELL!
WE'RE NOT HUMAN!
WE ARE EVERLASTING, INDESTRUC-TIBLE SWORDS!
SHRED
SHRED
MI
KOTO

BECOME A THOUSAND SHARDS...
...AND SEAL A THOUSAND EVIL SPIRITS.
BOOM

Whoosh
Whoosh
Thank you... Mikoto
I love you...
I promise I will
Just sleep for a little bit

...come for you.
shatter
STAB
CYAAAAH
CLINK
CLINK
CLINK
Finish...
STAB
STAB
STAB
STAB

CLEAR SKY
CLENCH
I'M GOING TO KILL ALL THE EVIL SPIRITS AND TAKE BACK EVERY ONE OF YOUR SHARDS.
POOF
Face
grip
sparkle
FROM NOW ON, WHEN I SWING MY SWORD IT'S ALL FOR YOU
shine
glint

Drip
Drip
THEN I'LL RE-FORGE THE SWORD AND RESURRECT YOU
I WON'T LET YOU WAIT A THOUSAND YEARS.
Shiou
I can't touch you—
A thou-sand years
is so long.

HI! GOOD WORK ON YOUR JOB!
MISS DONUT
A MAN AFTER MY FACE!
MIKOTO-KUN, HERE'S YOUR REWARD!
Look, it's your favorite thing sugar! I command you to receive it!
Ah, Yuuma-sama.

munch munch munch
Yummy yummy
munch munch
OH, PLEASE DON'T TOUCH IT I'LL SHARPEN IT MYSELF
YOU'VE USED YOUR SWORD UNTIL IT'S IN SUCH POOR CONDITION
YOU'RE SO DETERMINED
OF COURSE, I KNOW YOUR STORY THE SWORD SHATTERED INTO A THOUSAND PIECES AND AS THE SHARDS DESTROYED THE EVIL SPIRITS THEY SCATTERED ACROSS THE LAND AND WERE SEALED WITHIN
That is your "One thousand Kills"
BUT, IT'S STILL OVER A HUNDRED YEARS UNTIL THE SEAL BREAKS AND STILL KIND OF FAR IN THE FUTURE
UH.. THAT'S
MAYBE YOU'RE A MASOCHIST
chuckle
FOR ME, I KIND OF KNOW WHEN THAT DAY WILL COME
Love TELLS ME THAT
MIKOTO YOU'RE SO MUCH LIKE A HUMAN
bite
THOSE WORDS ARE THE HIGHEST OF COMPLIMENTS

PLUS IT FELT A LITTLE LIKE FATE WHEN I FIRST HEARD YOUR VOICE IT WAS SO MUCH LIKE SHIOU'S
AND THE FIRST THING YOU SAID WAS—
"That's so strange. This doesn't feel like the first time I've met you."
IT FELT KIND OF LIKE DIVINE REVELATION
WELL, I'M NOT HIS REINCARNATION OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT.
"I WANT YOU TO COME AND GET ME SOON, MIKOTO
THERE ARE THINGS I WANT TO SAY TO YOU."
PLEASE TRY SAYING SOMETHING.
SAY, "PLEASE COME GET ME, MIKOTO."

THERE'S NO FEELING OF WANTON RECKLESSNESS OR NATURAL USELESSNESS IN YOUR VOICE
AH, AH— NO GOOD, NO GOOD NOT EVEN CLOSE!
Plus...you completely lack innocence.
Hey! Don't leave your master behind!
Well, I'm going home. Thanks for the food
"I'M HOME!"
THAT DAY
I CAN ALREADY SEE IT
END

AFTER-WORD
HELLO, WE ARE DUO BRAND. THE TWO IN ONE MANGA ARTIST
THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR PURCHASING ABSOLUTE COMMAND
CELEBRATE!
HAPPY!
BOW
It's book 2 of the "Goshintou" series!
THIS BOOK HAS BEEN TURNED INTO A DRAMA CD BY THE COMPANY CYBERPHASE! THEY HAVE WON'EN THE STORY TOGETHER WITH THEIR FANTASTIC VOICE ACTING.
Dirty evil spirits!
SERIOUS!
THE FIRST VOLUME WAS CALLED "HONOKA NA KOI NO DANPEN WO"
I like the phrase "honoka na
HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO REMINISCE ABOUT THE PAST?
ON TOP OF THAT, HOW MANY YEARS AGO WAS IT THAT THE FIRST VOLUME WAS PUBLISHED?
thunk
Gyaaa!
heartbeats
THE INTENSITY IN THE STUDIO WAS JUST AMAZING
FIRST OF ALL, THE TANKOUBON TITLE BECAME ABSOLUTE ORDER.
IT'S A STORY BETWEEN THESE TWO CHARACTERS. THE DUO TYPE INVINCIBLE, RENEGADE CHARACTER AND THE DUO TYPE RARE AND SWEET
WELL NOW, ABOUT THE VOLUME THIS TIME
THIS TIME AROUND IT'S A LOVE STORY ABOUT TWO DIFFERENT COUPLES
Oh, ho ho!
I'm sorry! Let me out!
OH YEAH, SPEAKING OF THAT, WHERE DID KAZUTO-SAN LEARN TO DO H THINGS?
ROAR
That's because he is invincible!
He can do anything!!

IN THE STORY "BRAND" A LOT OF SAKURA BLOSSOMS WERE DRAWN EVERY-WHERE!
Including everything from when they're in full bloom to when they scatter!
Whee! I just can't get enough of it! <3
I will kill all the evil spirits!
Ung.
IN THE OTHER STORY, "BRAND" MIKOTO AND SHIOU HAVE THEIR FIRST ENCOUNTER.
IT'S ALSO A STORY WHERE THE ORIGINS OF MIKOTO'S OLD WOUNDS ARE REVEALED!
OF COURSE, I'M MORE INTO SAKURA-MOCHI THAN OAK LEAF-MOCHI!
BIG GRIN
I love those leaves.
The rough texture is nice.
But when you go to buy them they're always out of stock.
Besides it's the one thing I love most— Sakura!
Content
This comic will come out in the winter~~ mid-winter~~!
OH YEAH, LETS GO TO KYOTO
hee hee hee
Under the flowers perish in the spring~~ flowers are sakura trees... people are warriors~~
You are too into it, Mikoto-san, you're too into it~~!
THAT'S BECAUSE IT'S THE TASTE OF LOOOOVE!
INTENSE
...SPEAKING OF WHICH, MIKOTO SEEMS TO LOVE EATING SWEET THINGS A LOT AND NEVER SEEMS TO GET SICK OF IT
LETS CRANK IT OUT FASTER THIS TIME.
YES.
The next one...
WE'LL SEE YOU ON THE NEXT VOLUME.
THE STORY OF THE "OSHINTOU" WILL KEEP ON CONTINUING!
Best regards!
SO THIS WAS THE 2ND BOOK IN THE "OSHINTOU" SERIES ABSOLUTE COMMAND THAT WE CRANKED OUT AT OUR OWN SLOW PACE.
WE WOULD BE VERY HAPPY IF YOU WERE ABLE TO ENJOY IT!

NEXT STORY
I WANT TO BE A PERSON WHO WON'T GET EMBARRASSED WHEN I'M BESIDE NINOMIYA.
NINOMIYA, IN ORDER TO BE WITH YOU I—
BUT... THAT GAP IS HOPELESSLY WIDE AND DEEP.
NINOMIYA AND NAKAJI